

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Animal Rabies a Serious Problem

The present year, to November 1st, has brought 722 cases of animal rabies to California. This is the greatest number of cases of this disease that has been reported during a similar period of time in any of the past five years. The rabies situation, in fact, in many communities of California may well be considered as presenting the possibilities of great dangers, particularly to young children. Rabies is essentially a disease of dogs, but it may be transmitted to many other animals, both wild and domestic. It is found in coyotes, skunks, wolves, cats, horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. The great reservoir of infection, however, is in the stray dog population, and if all stray dogs were at all times placed under strict control, rabies would be a negligible factor in the state's public health. It is doubtful if any disease is more amenable to control. Whether or not a community will suffer from the disastrous effects of rabies depends entirely upon the activities for control that may be instituted and carried on in the local community. Any community which tolerates the presence of stray dogs is likely to suffer the disastrous effects which an outbreak of rabies always brings. This danger involves both men and animals. In the rural districts rabies may exact a heavy loss of money through the destruction of live stock, principally cattle and horses. The loss of human lives, particularly those of children, is always a threat in those communities where stray dogs are permitted to exist.

The first symptom of rabies in a dog is a change in the tone of the voice, followed by a change in the

normal disposition of the animal. There is a tendency for the dog to roam, and finally paralysis of the muscles of the neck and jaws appears, followed by the final stage in which there is a complete paralysis of the hind legs, making it impossible for the animal to move. The term "hydrophobia" was given to this disease because of the symptoms which develop when the animal, with throat muscles paralyzed, attempts to drink.

Contrary to popular opinion, rabies is not more prevalent during the summer months. The dog days of August, in so far as rabies is concerned, constitute a misnomer. If anything, rabies is more prevalent during the winter months than during the summer months of the year, and it is highly important that campaigns for the control of this disease should be carried on at the present time wherever the disease may exist. Animals which may be suspected of rabies should not be killed at once. They should be confined in order that they may be placed under observation. Should any symptoms of the disease appear the animal should be killed and the head forwarded to the State Laboratory for examination in order to demonstrate the presence of the causative organism. If the examination proves positive the Pasteur treatment should be given to any individuals who may have been bitten by the rabid animal. This treatment is preventive only. There is no known treatment for rabies. Whenever the symptoms appear, death is swift and certain. Bites upon the face, which are near the large nerve centers, are particularly

serious. There is no other agent of any value in cauterizing dog bites except fuming nitric acid. The ordinary commercial nitric acid is not suitable. The concentrated product must be used.

LARGE FAMILIES IN CALIFORNIA

A report of the United States Bureau of the Census for the year 1928, which has just been received, shows that out of 83,536 births which occurred in California during that year, 29,113, or 35 per cent, were the first births to occur in the families concerned; 20,503 births which occurred during that year were the second births to occur in the families involved—this represents 22 per cent of the total births which occurred during that year; 12,265 births were the third to occur in the families concerned—this is almost 15 per cent of the total births which occurred during that year. After the third birth in a family, additional births occur more rarely. During 1928 there were 7668 fourth births, 4712 fifth births, and 3215 sixth births. During that year the tenth birth occurred in no less than 666 families; the twelfth in 254 families; and in one family the twenty-first birth occurred. While larger families are found in many states other than California, it is believed that this state represents a fair average in the numbers of children that are born to California parents.

APPLICATIONS FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL PERMITS PENDING

The following applications for sewage disposal permits are pending before the State Board of Public Health, action to be taken at the next meeting of the board to be held in 337 State Building, San Francisco, December 13, 1930:

EL SEGUNDO, STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA—To utilize a chlorinated activated sludge plant effluent for steam generation and other industrial purposes at the El Segundo refinery.

NEWPORT BEACH—To dispose of triple-chlorinated sprinkling filter effluent to tidal waters of Santa Ana River.

COLMA—Application from board of supervisors of San Mateo County for permit to dispose of the sewage of the Colma District, after treatment in a septic tank, into the Vista Grande sewer of San Francisco, thence into the Spring Valley Tunnel and onto the beach at a point 4.5 miles south of the Cliff House.

NEWLY APPOINTED HEALTH OFFICER

Dr. W. E. Weddle has been appointed City Health Officer of North Sacramento to succeed Dr. F. E. McCullough.

Can you account him wise or discreet that would willingly have his health and yet will do nothing that should procure or continue it?—*Robert Burton.*

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN 1930

The first ten months of the present year have brought to California outstanding epidemics of acute anterior poliomyelitis, food poisoning, trichinosis and measles. Chickenpox, whooping cough and mumps have also been extremely prevalent during the first ten months of the year.

Diphtheria, influenza, smallpox, typhoid fever, epidemic meningitis and dysentery are conspicuous because of their extremely low prevalence. Compared with the years 1927, 1928 and 1929, the first ten months of 1930 show an abnormal prevalence of the more common communicable diseases, such as measles, mumps and chickenpox. They also show an abnormal prevalence of the more unusual epidemic diseases, such as acute anterior poliomyelitis, food poisoning, undulant fever and trichinosis.

As a matter of fact, 1930 will long be remembered because of the extremely severe outbreak of epidemic poliomyelitis. This represents the most outstanding epidemiological feature of the present year.

ACTIVITIES IN CHILD HYGIENE

During the month of October the physicians upon the staff of the Bureau of Child Hygiene made 1405 medical examinations in a total of nearly 1000 children. In these children, most of whom reside in the rural districts of California, a total of 1588 physical defects were discovered, 944 of which are correctable only through the employment of medical services, and 644 of which are correctable through the use of hygienic measures. Of the 984 children who were examined, 275 were under one year of age, 162 were between one and two years of age, and 547 were between two and six years of age.

During the month, a total of 38 licensed maternity homes and hospitals were inspected, and 11 maternity homes and hospitals, making application for licenses for the first time, were inspected. An expert upon posture was added to the staff during the month, and during the few days that she was employed conducted 9 conferences. Nearly 19,000 pieces of literature were distributed by the bureau during October, and 17 talks were given by members of the staff before audiences which totaled nearly 1900 persons.

MANY NURSES TAKE EXAMINATION

An examination of candidates for certificates as registered nurses was held in Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles early in November. Five hundred and seven applicants had designated their intention of taking this examination; of this number 467 actually appeared. The number of nurses from other

states who are entering California for the purpose of practicing their profession continues to be very large. During the past two months large numbers of student nurses have entered schools of nursing throughout the state. A study undertaken by the Bureau of Registration of Nurses has revealed the fact that last year 889 students either resigned or were dismissed from schools of nursing in California. A special report which recites the reasons for resignations and dismissals has been made, in order that conclusions may be drawn which may be helpful to directors of schools of nursing in eliminating applicants who will not prove to be satisfactory students.

AID TO NEVADA CITIES

Owners of land adjacent to Lake Tahoe and users of water from the Truckee River in Nevada entered into an agreement, during the past summer, whereby permission was granted to those who made use of the river water, under certain conditions, to pump a limited amount of water from Lake Tahoe into the Truckee River for use in Nevada during the unusual season of water shortage. The cities of Reno and Sparks are now building sewage disposal plants which will be completed early in 1931, but these cities are dependent, at the present time, upon adequate flow in the Truckee River for disposal of municipal sewage.

The agreement referred to made provision for the withdrawal of water to the extent of 5000 acre-feet from Lake Tahoe, if the flow of the river were not sufficient to carry away the sewage from these cities. In order to obtain the increased supply of water, which became necessary, it was stipulated that the executive officers of the state boards of health of Nevada and California should execute affidavits to be delivered to the Attorney General of California and filed in the federal courts in which the proceedings were undertaken. These affidavits, indicating the necessity for the provision of more water, were made late in September by the executives referred to and, as a result, relief was brought to the cities of Reno and Sparks.

PUBLIC HEALTH

While public health is the foundation of the happiness and prosperity of the people and its promotion is recognized as an important function of government, how wide is the gap between what is achieved and what might be realized, how inadequate is the understanding of the public concerning the means adapted to secure the best results, how small the attractions offered to those entering or who might desire to enter careers in public health through lack of suitable finan-

cial recompense, of security of tenure of office, of opportunities for promotion, of standards for eligibility based upon special training and experience, and of funds made available for the public promotion of health. Something of the lack of adjustment of the average man to rapidly changing social, economic, and political conditions of our complicated modern civilization may be reflected in a certain temporary maladjustment between curative medicine and preventive medicine, which should stand in harmonious relations.—Dr. Wm. H. Welch.

LIST OF DISEASES REPORTABLE BY LAW

ANTHRAX	MUMPS
BERI-BERI	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
BOTULISM	PARATYPHOID FEVER
CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	PELLAGRA
CHICKENPOX	PLAGUE
CHOLERA, ASIATIC	PNEUMONIA (Lobar)
COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA	POLIOMYELITIS
DENGUE	RABIES (Animal)
DIPHTHERIA	RABIES (Human)
DYSENTERY (Amoebic)	ROCKY MOUNTAIN
DYSENTERY (Bacillary)	SPOTTED (or Tick) FEVER
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	SCARLET FEVER
ERYSIPELAS	SMALLPOX
FLUKES	SYPHILIS*
FOOD POISONING	TETANUS
GERMAN MEASLES	TRACHOMA
GLANDERS	TUBERCULOSIS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION*	TULAREMIA
HOOKWORM	TYPHOID FEVER
INFLUENZA	TYPHUS FEVER
JAUNDICE (Infectious)	UNDULANT (Malta) FEVER
LEPROSY	WHOOPING COUGH
MALARIA	YELLOW FEVER
MEASLES	

*Reported by office number. Name and address not required.

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES

CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	POLIOMYELITIS
CHOLERA, ASIATIC	SCARLET FEVER
DIPHTHERIA	SMALLPOX
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	TYPHOID FEVER
LEPROSY	TYPHUS FEVER
PLAGUE	YELLOW FEVER

"It is wiser and less expensive to save children than to punish criminals."

Sydenham was called "a man of many doubts," and therein lay the secret of his great strength.—Osler.

MORBIDITY

Diphtheria.

61 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Oakland 3, Fresno County 3, Calexico 1, Los Angeles County 6, Burbank 1, Glendale 3, Los Angeles 15, Redondo 1, San Fernando 1, Monterey Park 1, Ross 1, Orange 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 10, Redwood City 1, Santa Clara County 2, Palo Alto 1, Watsonville 3, Exeter 1, Tulare 1, Santa Paula 1, Marysville 1.

* From reports received on November 17th and 18th for week ending November 15th.

Scarlet Fever.

91 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 3, Amador County 2, Butte County 2, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 4, Fresno 5, Los Angeles County 15, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 23, San Fernando 1, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 1, Merced County 1, Orange County 1, Riverside County 1, Upland 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 2, Vacaville 1, Stanislaus County 2, Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 2, Yolo County 1, Woodland 1.

Measles.

94 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Hayward 2, Chico 1, Los Angeles County 2, Azusa 21, Beverly Hills 2, Covina 1, Los Angeles 14, Redondo 2, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 1, Gardena 1, Merced County 1, Gustine 1, Riverside County 4, Riverside 1, Ontario 8, San Diego 3, San Francisco 1, San Luis Obispo County 4, San Luis Obispo 2, San Jose 1, Corning 1, Ventura County 2, Oxnard 15.

Smallpox.

11 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Concord 1, Fresno County 2, Fresno 2, Los Angeles 1, Redwood City 1, Vallejo 2, Stanislaus County 1, Yuba City 1.

Typhoid Fever.

12 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Napa County 2, Riverside 1, California 2.**

Whooping Cough.

103 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows:

Alameda County 1, Alameda 10, Berkeley 5, Oakland 8, Contra Costa County 1, Martinez 2, Pittsburg 5, Orland 1, Los Angeles County 6, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 22, Santa Monica 1, Tujunga 3, King City 4, Sacramento 8, Coronado 1, La Mesa 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 4.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

5 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

San Francisco reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

Undulant Fever.

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Orange County 1, San Francisco 1.

Anthrax.

Merced County reported one case of anthrax.

Poliomyelitis.

44 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Colusa 2, Fresno County 2, Bakersfield 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 3, San Fernando 1, Napa County 1, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 13, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo 1, San Jose 2, Stanislaus County 3, California 1.**

** Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1930				1929			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Nov. 15 received by Nov. 18	Week ending			Reports for week ending Nov. 16 received by Nov. 19
	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8		Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	
Actinomycosis	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Chickenpox	181	204	192	175	180	203	239	197
Coccidioides granuloma	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Diphtheria	74	50	88	61	79	60	84	67
Dysentery (Amoebic)	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
Dysentery (Bacillary)	1	1	2	1	2	32	1	6
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	2	1	0	1	0	3	1	0
Erysipelas	9	8	11	12	8	17	10	7
Food Poisoning	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
German Measles	5	9	11	5	12	10	9	6
Gonococcus Infection	153	156	157	127	132	105	130	97
Influenza	24	30	29	27	32	28	55	36
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	1
Measles	92	132	115	94	42	80	65	72
Meningitis (Epidemic)	8	1	4	5	6	5	2	6
Mumps	137	140	143	139	289	262	288	246
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0
Pellagra	2	0	1	1	0	6	2	0
Pneumonia (Lobar)	55	40	48	56	28	58	46	42
Poliomyelitis	72	61	49	44	0	2	3	3
Rabies (animal)	16	12	15	10	15	5	13	12
Scarlet Fever	68	77	108	91	151	236	196	215
Smallpox	12	16	13	11	37	22	49	26
Syphilis	132	120	179	153	170	263	184	153
Tetanus	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Trachoma	7	4	4	165	0	1	3	3
Trichinosis	2	1	1	0	0	4	0	0
Tuberculosis	197	219	228	140	181	180	191	182
Tularemia	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Typhoid Fever	14	14	18	12	10	16	17	10
Undulant Fever	0	3	3	2	2	1	3	4
Whooping Cough	72	86	120	103	72	86	125	91
Totals	1,342	1,390	1,545	1,437	1,456	1,695	1,720	1,485

Epidemic poliomyelitis is receding rapidly.

Measles has now returned to normal.

Smallpox is at low stage.

In general, the state's health is good.